

MAR 26 2003

PTO/SB/O8A (10-96)

Approved for use through 10/31/99. OMB 0651-0031

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 14494/A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	09/720,584
		Filing Date	December 22, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Takeshi Kubota
		Group Art Unit	1772
		Examiner Name	P. Nordmeyer
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	TIJK/149	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
pln	1.	5,855,717		Beer et al.	January 5, 1999	
pln	2.	4,352,847		Okiyama	October 5, 1982	
pln	3.	5,707,478		Fujii et al.	January 13, 1998	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind code ⁵ (if known)				
pln	4.	EP	0397425		Satou et al.	November 14, 1990		
pln	5.	WO	91/05660		Spain et al.	May 2, 1991		
Examiner Signature	Patricia L. Nordmeyer					Date Considered	2/12/03	

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number.

² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.

⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SENT FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SENT TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.